

illnesses, or to receive care for chronic conditions and injuries. And usually whatever care they receive takes place in a hospital emergency room—one of the most expensive settings possible.

As we consider how best to extend health insurance coverage to this important segment of the population, I want to call my colleagues' attention to one aspect of this problem that is often overlooked. I am speaking about the oral health of children.

For some reason, many of us often fail to realize that oral health is an integral part of a person's overall health. Tooth decay and serious infections are just some of the chronic health problems that can result when oral health is ignored. At the same time, there is a strong relationship between oral health and other medical conditions that manifest symptoms in the mouth. Regular dental check-ups, or example, provide an early warning system for diabetes, certain forms of cancer, and immune disorders like AIDS.

According to the U.S. Public Health Service, dental and oral diseases may well be the most prevalent—and preventable—conditions affecting children. And while we have seen improvement overall, certain groups of children continue to suffer more than their share of oral health problems, primarily because of their limited access to oral health services. Poor children—usually minority, migrant, and many in rural communities—are the ones most seriously affected.

You might ask "doesn't Medicaid help these children?" It should, if they happen to be eligible. But while Medicaid accounts for about 80 percent of public funds spent for oral health, only about 1 percent of Medicaid funds are spent on dental care. And as we have heard, many of the uninsured children are in working poor families that are just above the Medicaid cut-off for eligibility. These children have no protection whatsoever.

The sad irony is that dental care embodies the very qualities that make for a good health care system. Unlike medical coverage, which is triggered by illness, dental coverage emphasizes prevention. How important is that? According to the National Institute of Dental Research, every dollar spent on preventive dental care saves \$4 in treatment costs.

And dental coverage favors primary care over more expensive specialized treatment. Regular checkups mean your local dentist can catch and treat problems before they require a specialist.

One recent study found that persons with dental coverage are almost twice as likely to visit a dentist, and more than 70 percent of those covered by insurance have annual checkups and receive preventive care.

All of which is to say, dental coverage for children is not only good social policy; it is good economic policy as well.

If we truly want to extend basic health protection to our children, I

urge my colleagues to include dental health coverage in any final legislation we send to the President.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL STAUDENMAIER

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Paul D. Staudenmaier, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Duluth, MN. On September 13, 1997, he will retire with over 21 years of dedicated service.

Paul's career with the Boys Clubs began in Chicago over 46 years ago. In his teens, he was headed for a gang fight, when a member of the Chicago Boys Club urged him to come to the area club. He started as a games room worker at the former Harper Chicago Boys Club on the south side of Chicago and progressed through many different positions in the Chicago area clubs. He was program director at the Woodlawn Boys Club, unit director at the Lathrop Boys Club on the north side, and unit director at the Valentine Boys Club in the old neighborhood of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Paul received his masters degree in education administration with the help of a Boys Club Scholarship from New York University. He also served in the army in the Korean conflict, married Fran, his wife, and had four sons.

In 1977, when Paul became executive director of the Boys Club of Duluth, the club was floundering and needed strong leadership. The club had less than \$500 in the bank, and over \$4,000 in unpaid bills. Housed in an old church building, it also needed a new boiler. Through the generous efforts of the United Way of Duluth, Paul secured a new boiler and from then on, changes occurred for the better.

By 1980 the club was changing to have memberships for boys and girls. It took 10 years before the national organization gave the recognition to become the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Paul's many contributions have included helping to form the Help a Boy and Help A Girl scholarship which has been a very successful program. In 1982, he formed the Mighty-Mites for 4- to 5-year old children, a summer program for working mothers and in 1984, the Summer Fun Bunch for children, ages 6 to 12 years old. In 1985, he started the Operating Endowment Fund which is now the Boys and Girls Club of Duluth Foundation with assets of over \$400,000.

One of the highlights of Paul's career came in 1992 when a joint partnership was formed with the Duluth school district at the Lincoln Park School, located just a few blocks from the club. The Lincoln Park neighborhood has a ratio of 70 to 80 percent of single parent families and now has become a youth and family center that serves approximately 800 youth.

It offers community swimming and gym classes for parents and children, and has a computer center for use after school hours for youth and parents, and

offers many other youth and family programs. The program at the Lincoln School has been so successful that the existing club will be converted into a full service teen center. Paul's ability to look ahead has helped the club to form a strategic planning committee. One of its goals is to work with the local school district to form more joint ventures at other schools in other areas of the city.

Paul Staudenmaier's contributions over the years are impressive and noteworthy, and it is an honor for me to pay tribute to this remarkable and dedicated man. As family, friends, and colleagues gather to honor Paul on September 13, 1997, I join them in conveying my heartiest congratulations.

It is a privilege for me to join in honoring his distinguished career of service to others. As you celebrate this milestone, all the best on this occasion and I extend my warmest wishes to Paul for a well-deserved retirement, filled with continued good health and happiness.●

IN MEMORY OF COACH JAMES G. LILLY

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise to take a moment to pay tribute to a very special West Virginian, Coach James G. Lilly of Oak Hill, who recently passed away after coaching the Oak Hill Red Devils for 27 years.

Coach Lilly was a dedicated high school basketball coach and a true humanitarian. He retired in 1989 ranking third on the State's all-time high school winning list, with a career record of 591-291. Coach Lilly led the Oak Hill Red Devils to two class AAA State championships in 1984 and 1989, and his Red Devils were runners-up in the 1969 and 1986 tournaments.

However, there was much more to this three-time coach of the year than just winning basketball games. Jim Lilly tirelessly worked to fulfill many of his players' human needs. He gave generously of himself, looking out for his players in the southern coalfields of West Virginia.

Coach Lilly became a father figure to hundreds of young teens throughout his 38-year career. "He knew that certain kids needed certain things, a little extra food or maybe an extra dollar . . . he looked out for you and he was very giving . . . my dad died when I was 9 and he was the most pivotal older male in my life," said Sam Calloway, a former player and now coach.

He was a man of dignity, a man of class, a man of compassion, and he will be deeply missed by the community and coaching profession. Lilly's dignity was not only displayed through his life, but through his players' lives. In six State tournament appearances, the Oak Hill Red Devils won five sportsmanship trophies in the eighties. "Sportsmanship was a direct reflection of the coach," said Calloway, "and when we were on the floor, we represented him."